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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0515
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2229
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 4577
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 0093
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 2788
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 6017
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SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - IRAQ

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Tuesday morning's Sankei led with the revelation by several GOJ sources that spy satellites operated by the U.S. and others have taken photos pointing to apparent preparations by North Korea for the launch of a long-range ballistic missile.

¶2. "One Step forward for Iraq" On the recent Iraqi provincial elections, the business-oriented Nikkei editorialized (2/3): "The fact that the provincial polls were completed without major confusion can be regarded as an important step in Iraq's political process.... Voters, in casting their ballots, were given a larger number of choices, as they were allowed to vote for not just candidates from political parties or groups but also independent contenders. It seems that the security situation in Iraq has been improving."

¶3. "Leap toward Reconciliation and Self-Help" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun insisted in an editorial (2/3): ".... The Iraqi government, ahead of the elections, repeatedly aired TV commercials calling for national reconciliation. This helped generate the momentum for people's participation in the political process beyond religious sectarian lines.... As the Iraqi situation is closely connected to developments in the Middle East, as well as in Afghanistan, careful attention should continuously be paid to Iraq's moves toward stability and self-help."

ZUMWALT